

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended): A load port transfer apparatus comprising:
 - (a) a load port transfer arm comprising a robotic arm or mechanical interface arm configured to remove a wafer cassette from a load port of a tool, the load port transfer arm having a cover thereover; and
 - (b) a means for blowing ~~clean~~ air around ~~past~~ said load port transfer arm.
2. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said cover comprises acrylic.
3. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said means for blowing ~~clean~~ air comprises a fan filter.
4. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 1 wherein said cover comprises a ~~rectangular~~ box having a top, a bottom, and two ends and having two open sides.
5. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 4 wherein said cover has openings in said bottom for releasing air into the ambient.
6. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 5 wherein said bottom of said cover comprises an upper layer and a lower layer and wherein a first set of said openings are formed in said upper layer and a second set of openings are formed in said lower layer and wherein said first set of openings and said second set of openings are discontinuous.

7. (Currently Amended): A load port transfer apparatus comprising:

(a) a load port transfer arm comprising a robotic arm or mechanical interface arm configured to remove a wafer cassette from a load port of a tool, the load port transfer arm having a cover thereover wherein said cover covers a top, bottom, and two end surfaces of an area surrounding said load port transfer arm and wherein two side surfaces of said area are open so that said load port transfer arm can move without restraint; and

(b) a means for blowing ~~clean~~ air around ~~past~~ said load port transfer arm and out through openings in said bottom of said cover.

8. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 7 wherein said cover comprises acrylic.

9. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 7 wherein said means for blowing ~~clean~~ air comprises a fan filter.

10. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 7 wherein said bottom of said cover comprises an upper layer and a lower layer and wherein a first set of said openings are formed in said upper layer and a second set of openings are formed in said lower layer and wherein said first set of openings and said second set of openings are discontinuous.

11. (Currently Amended): A load port transfer apparatus comprising:

(a) a load port transfer arm comprising a robotic arm or mechanical interface arm configured to remove a wafer cassette from a load port of a tool, the load port transfer arm having an acrylic cover thereover wherein said cover covers a top, bottom, and two end surfaces of an area surrounding said load port transfer arm and wherein two side surfaces of said area are open so that said load port transfer arm can move without restraint; and

(b) a means for blowing ~~clean~~ air around ~~past~~ said load port transfer arm and out through openings in said bottom of said cover.

12. (Currently Amended): The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein said means for blowing ~~clean~~ air comprises a fan filter.

13. (Original): The apparatus according to Claim 11 wherein said bottom of said cover comprises an upper layer and a lower layer and wherein a first set of said openings are formed in said upper layer and a second set of openings are formed in said lower layer and wherein said first set of openings and said second set of openings are discontinuous.